

WARREN
MAGAZINE



VAMPI
#71
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VAMPIRELLA

NOV. 1974

Five starlets
have died
mysteriously!

Will VAMPI
escape...
or join them?
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STAR WARS CHARM BRACELET



STAR WARS CHARM BRACELET The two-sided charm bracelet has four charms attached to four Star Wars icons: Yoda, Darth Vader, Chewbacca, and Han Solo. The charms are made of metal and are attached to a gold-colored chain. The chain is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored clasp. The bracelet is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored clasp. The bracelet is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored clasp.

DARTH VADER EARRINGS



DARTH VADER EARRINGS How can you tell you're not Vader with you? Well, you can't. But these great Darth Vader earrings will help you tell your friends. They are made of metal and are attached to a gold-colored chain. The earrings are made of metal and are attached to a gold-colored chain.

R2D2 EARRINGS



R2D2 EARRINGS These little cuties are the perfect earrings for you. They are made of metal and are attached to a gold-colored chain. The earrings are made of metal and are attached to a gold-colored chain.

C3PO EARRINGS



C3PO EARRINGS The little yellow droid is the perfect earrings for you. They are made of metal and are attached to a gold-colored chain. The earrings are made of metal and are attached to a gold-colored chain.



R2D2 STICK PIN

R2D2 STICK PIN The little yellow droid is the perfect stick pin for you. It is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain. The stick pin is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain.



C3PO STICK PIN

C3PO STICK PIN The little yellow droid is the perfect stick pin for you. It is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain. The stick pin is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain.



DARTH VADER STICK PIN

DARTH VADER STICK PIN The little Darth Vader is the perfect stick pin for you. It is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain. The stick pin is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain.



DARTH VADER & CHEWBACCA STICK PIN The little Darth Vader and Chewbacca are the perfect stick pin for you. It is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain. The stick pin is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain.



R2D2 & C3PO STICK PIN The little R2D2 and C3PO are the perfect stick pin for you. It is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain. The stick pin is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain.



SPACESHIP CHAIN & PENDANT

SPACESHIP CHAIN & PENDANT The little spaceship is the perfect chain and pendant for you. It is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain. The chain and pendant are made of metal and are attached to a gold-colored chain.



DARTH VADER PENDANT & CHAIN

DARTH VADER PENDANT & CHAIN The little Darth Vader is the perfect pendant and chain for you. It is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain. The pendant and chain are made of metal and are attached to a gold-colored chain.



C3PO PENDANT & CHAIN

C3PO PENDANT & CHAIN The little C3PO is the perfect pendant and chain for you. It is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain. The pendant and chain are made of metal and are attached to a gold-colored chain.

STAR WARS BELT BUCKLES



DARTH VADER BELT BUCKLE The little Darth Vader is the perfect belt buckle for you. It is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain. The belt buckle is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain.



STAR WARS BELT BUCKLE The little Star Wars logo is the perfect belt buckle for you. It is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain. The belt buckle is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain.



SPACESHIP BELT BUCKLE The little spaceship is the perfect belt buckle for you. It is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain. The belt buckle is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain.



R2D2 & C3PO BELT BUCKLE The little R2D2 and C3PO are the perfect belt buckle for you. It is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain. The belt buckle is made of metal and is attached to a gold-colored chain.



VAMPIRELLA

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AUGUST 1978

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What happens when the lie turns out to be true? The liar, whose desires led him to accuse a beautiful maid of sorcery and to punish her rejection of him, finds, to his horror, it is all too true! It's not nice to lie because it's not nice to fool the devil!

27 NIGHT OF THE CHICKEN

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39 MACHU PICCHU

The Inca mountain citadel contained a treasure beyond the wildest dreams of Spain's legions. Now new worlds lay within the Spanish sprawl, but glints of gold blinded the eye with greed. The treasure of one world may be another world's lead!

46 AUSTRALOPITHICUS

Apeman-hu-man. We became what we are because someone or something invented the question: A tauntily told timely tale, doubles back to close a loop and start another. If questions made us what we are, then they will make us what we become!

Vampi's Scarlet Letters

RECENT SCRIPTS: MAKE A MONKEY OUT OF VAMPI?

I've just finished reading **VAMPIRELLA** #69, and it has to be one of the finest issues Warren has produced so far.

The cover was terrific. The "Phantom of Hollywood" seems to be starting off as a comedy, so I didn't care for it that much, though I won't put a story down until I've seen all of it.

The other four stories were fabulous! But my favorite of the issue, in fact one of the most chilling stories I've ever read, was "Jesse's Friend." Terrific job by Bruce Jones and Gonzalo Mayo's art was the perfect accompaniment!

R.A. ZIERS
Bloomfield, N.J.

I was absolutely shocked by Bruce Jones' "Hit Six." He had the makings of a fantastic ending and he had to ruin it. The whole last panel should have been eliminated completely. If Betty Ramsey had shot Raff at the end, instead of rescuing him it would have come as a complete surprise to me. What a great ending that would have made! The happy ending made a potentially great story merely a so-so one.

KIEREN DIAMOND
Phila, Pa.

Please reread the fan pages. I think it would be very interesting to see how your readers would illustrate **VAMPI**.

Also keep those covers of Barbara Leigh coming. She's stunning and looks exactly like **VAMPIRELLA**!

RANDALL ZOSTER
Warrior, Ala.

VAMPI #69 was very good, and I am happy to see Pendragon and **VAMPI** back together again.

Say, let's hear about the contest that will determine who wins the prizes left over from the Mystery Contest in **VAMPIRELLA** #65.

DAVID DOBIS
St. Paul, Minn.

We're not promising David, but there is a possibility that the first fan page will announce the next contest as well. Stay tuned!



Issue #69 was great! The team of Gonzalo Mayo and Bill Dubay did a great job on "The Phantom of Hollywood" but Granny and Rolene need more development in future issues.

The fan page should return! Some of those fan drawings were excellent. Thanks for a great issue!

C.D. HASKELL
N.Y.C., N.Y.

Boy am I mad! Furious even! I've only been collecting **VAMPI** for three issues now, and I am already sick of hearing about a certain fan page that has everyone at each other's throats. It's not the fan page itself that I disagree with, it is the controversy surrounding it. Give me one good reason why Warren mags shouldn't carry a fan page? Too childish? Bull! Not to this struggling young artist, who would give up his entire collection of Superman comics just to get one of his drawings published.

RON HANEY
Washington, Pa.

I offer my humblest apology to Warren comix.

For over a year I've invested money and time into National Lampoon's Americanized version of France's Metal Hurlant, and neglected one of my favorite loves **CREEPY**, **ELITE**, and **VAMPIRELLA**. I don't know why I bothered!

DON NEWSOME
Newark, N.J.

"The Phantom of Hollywood" was dynamic, as the **VAMPI** feature always will be. I enjoy seeing her battle mad scientists and menacing robots occasionally rather than the usual supernatural menaces. Let's see **VAMPI** stop small crime from time to time, also.

WILSON RIVERA
Brooklyn, N.Y.

The photo cover of Ms. Leigh was beautiful. From distance, she and **VAMPI** could pass as twins!

I would like **VAMPIRELLA** Magazine to have two letters pages and a fan page. Why not give the fan page a try for a few issues and see if it works out?

RICHARD MATCHAM
Indio, Cal.

I'm glad **VAMPI** is getting away from that Hollywood scene. She has too much class to be just a movie star. I hope the episode in her life is quickly forgotten, and that **BILL DUBAY** has a better future planned for her. **VAMPI** was far more successful when she was battling the forces of **CHAOS**, and I don't see why she can't go on doing just that.

ANTHONY LONG
Fl. Hood, Tx.

One letters page for your magazine is not enough to do justice to your readers' reactions. There simply isn't room enough to publish long letters of controversy very often and when they do appear they are too short, too edited and too blunt!

LARRY TWILLOCK
Fullerton, Cal.

Since many readers have similar opinions, printing all of everyone's letter would soon get repetitive and boring. We attempt to excerpt from as many letters as possible opinions representative of the whole. And, if we get a letter expressing a controversial opinion, we are very careful to print that portion like your letter above.

This is my first issue of **VAMPIRELLA**, and it's really good. It's kind of expensive, too. But don't worry, I'll buy it still. "Hit Six" was my favorite.

MITCH STROMME
Canoga Park, Cal.

Issue #69 is the best issue to come out of Warren since #54. Gonzalo Mayo's work astounded me and **BILL DUBAY**'s *Drakuland* is more delectable than ever. My only wish is that you bring back *Pantha*.

DAVID CASSIDY
N.Y., N.Y.

Pantha is back this issue, David. See page 51.

Regarding the new **VAMPI** serial, I realize how difficult it is to judge from the first installment, but I have to say that "The Phantom of Hollywood" does not look too promising. The villain are unworthy, and are the latest in a line of menaces that simply weren't menacing. I hope **BILL DUBAY** gets past writing stories about little old ladies who build robots.

BRIAN CADEN
Cincinnati, Oh.

My husband introduced me to **VAMPIRELLA** seven years ago. I promptly ordered all the back issues and haven't missed a single one since. I thought then, and still think, that **VAMPIRELLA** is an island in the sea of senseless violence created by most adult comics.

CYNTHIA BILTY
Ocean Springs,

I took offense to Brancatelli's dislike of the "taking over" of Warren by Spanish artists exclusively. I don't think the ethnic background of any artist, writer or other professional should have anything to do with whether or not he has talent. Should we treat Joe Brancatelli any differently because he has an Italian surname?

RUBEN SORIANO
San Antonio, Tx.

Vampi's Scarlet Letters
C.D. WARREN PUBLISHING
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KELED NIGHT UPON HOLLWOOD THE CITY BOARS TO LIFE WITH BRIGHT LIGHTS AND THE DEADENING STACCATO OF THUNDERING DISCO. WHILE THE MOVIE STUDIOS HAD TRANSFORMED THIS DESERT LAND INTO TURBULENT BABEL, QUIETLY CLOSE UP SHOP FOR THE NIGHT!



HOW WAS THE FIRST DAY ON YOUR NEW PICTURE, VAMPA?



WELL, FINCH... IT'S A STEP AWAY FROM "THE GUNG CREATURE FROM PLANET X" BUT IT STILL SEEMS LIKE A CHILDISH WAY FOR A GROWN GIRL TO EARN A LIVING!



I'LL NEVER FIGURE OUT HOW YOU TALKED ME INTO DOING ANOTHER FILM AFTER THAT LAST ASSHINATION!

ENJOY IT, SWEETKISS! THE PRODUCERS LOVE YOU!



AND THIS IS YOUR BIG CHANCE...STARRING OPPOSITE MAE RAY!

APPEARING WITH A SUPER STAR LIKE HER WILL DO WONDERS FOR YOUR CAREER!



JUST THINK... IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO HER BEFORE THE PICTURE IS FINISHED...THEY'D HAVE TO MAKE YOU THE STAR!



OH JOY! IN THAT CASE...LET'S PRAY FOR THE REALITY AND SAFETY OF MAE RAY!

SEE ISSUE #68, WHEN VAMPIRELLA STARRED IN HER FIRST MOTION PICTURE

VAMPIRELLA



The Case of the CONNECTED

AND... IN YET ANOTHER PART OF
TINSEL TOWN... IN A LUSH MANSION
OVERLOOKING THE PLASTIC WASTE
LAND



CLOWNS *and the* **COLLECTOR!**

WILL, BUCK AT CENTURY STUDIOS TWO
LONG LOST FRIENDS ARE REUNITED
AFTER A TEN-LONG SEPARATION!

IT IS YOU! BUT
WHAT BRINGS YOU TO
CALIFORNIA,
AGAIN?

WHY, DEAR BUCK...
NOW, OF COURSE!

OH, PEN... I'D HEART
TO RETURN TO YOU, ADAM AND
CONRAD. BUT I PROMISED ANITA
I'D HELP HER SETTLE INTO A NEW
LIFE... AND, AS YOU CAN SEE, I'VE
BECOME A HELPLESS PRISONER
OF THAT INSANE HOLLYWOOD
TALENT AGENT!

PEN: IF YOU'RE
BUCK, AND YOU'RE
HERE TO STAY!

NOW WHO WOULD HAVE
ENDORSED BEHIND SHAGS
BOGALARS TO AVOID RECOGNITION IN
THESE GAUCHE, KNICKER AND
SPECIOUS, YET TACKY CLOTHES?

IF I HADN'T BEEN HERE
TO RESCUE YOU FROM THAT
FROTHY, ANIMAL GRANNY
ORDER, WHO KNOWS WHAT
MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED?

SO IT APPEARS! THE
FRAL CHILD NEEDS
ASSISTANCE LIKE A RICH
NEEDS FEET!

SHE HAS ENLISTED
THE FAMOUS PRESTIGIOUS
WITH PROMISES OF A BOOKING
ON THE PRISTIS! OUR FRACK
AND FRACK FRACKLES
TELEVISION HOUR!

OH, PEN... DON'T
TELL ME THIS... THIS
HUSTLER HAS
CONVED YOU, TOO!?

IN EXCHANGE, I
NEED ONLY SIGN WITH
HER NINETY-FORMED BLACK
CAT TALENT AGENCY, RELENT
TWENTY PER-CENT OF MY IN-
COME FOR LIFE, AND GIVE
UNTO HER MY FIRST-BORN
MALE CHILD!

COME NOW, CHILD! DON'T
BE SO INCONSOLABLE! WE
ALWAYS DID NEED AN
AGENT!

BESIDES, WHAT MORTAL
IN HIS RIGHT MIND WOULDN'T
SELL HIS SOUL FOR SIXTY MINUTES
WITH FRACK AND FRACK FRACKLES?

FRICK AND FRACK
FRACKLES
STUDIO FOUR

SPEAKING OF WHICH...
WE HAD BETTER HURRY!
THE SHOW'S ABOUT TO
BEGIN!

NEXT SHE'LL BE
BILLING CONRAD AND
ADAM AS THE SINGING
JAVIERE BLAYERS!



LATER THAT NIGHT, AFTER A GRUELING SESSION IN FRONT OF THE CAMERAS, KIMMELBERG IS ANXIOUS TO SEE HOW PENDELTON PASSED WITH HIS INTERVIEWING NEW ASSISTANT...



THAT'S A WRAP, SWEETHEART! YOU WERE PERFECT!

OH MR. LUMET, THIS IS STILL SO NEW TO ME!

YESTERDAY I WAS WORKING IN ONE FILM... TODAY I'M STARRING IN ANOTHER! IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE MY HEAD SPIN!



I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY MR. LUMET DECIDED SO SUDDENLY TO RETIRE...

SHE SIMPLY WANTED TO MAKE ROOM FOR TALENTED PERFORMERS LIKE YOURSELF, COVER!



SHE KNOWS THIS FILM ABOUT THE DISAPPEARING STARSLET WILL DO SO MUCH MORE FOR YOUR CAREER!

YOU BE A GOOD GIRL, NOW! GET OUT OF THAT COSTUME, GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, AND I'LL SEE YOU BRIGHT AND EARLY IN THE MORNING!



WHATEVER YOU SAY, MR. LUMET!



HOLLYWOOD! I'LL NEVER GET USED TO IT!

IT'S ONE OVERGROWN HAVEN FOR... GORGESQUE!



Ughhhhh!

MEANWHILE THE CURRENT NATIVE IDOL OF THE
BUBBLEGUM TRADE TRIES DISPERATELY TO
ALLEViate THE CONDITION WHICH HAS PLAGUED
HIM/THEM FOR THREE TORTUROUS DECADES!



ALL RIGHT! I UNDERSTAND
THAT YOU GUYSVE GOT TO BE SEEN
TOGETHER TO UPHOLD YOUR PUBLIC
IMAGE...!

BUT WHEN DO YOU
GET OUT OF THAT MONKEY
SUIT, CALL IT A NIGHT AND
GO TO YOUR RESPECTIVE
HOMES?



THIS IS OUR
RESPECTIVE HOME,
MY DEAR!

YOU SEE... NORMAN
AND I... WE... ER...
LIVE TOGETHER!

YOU REALLY ARE
DIFFERENT, AREN'T
YOU?!



I MUST SAY HOWEVER
I'M IMPRESSED BY YOUR
LIFESTYLE!

THIS IS NOTHING,
MY DEAR! WHAT UNTIL
YOU SEE THE BONDAGE!



YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN
BEATING AROUND THE BUSH,
DO YOU MR. FRECKLES?

CALL ME MALCOLM!
IT'S SO MUCH MORE
INTIMATE!



UH, MALCOLM DON'T
THINK ME A PRUDE
BUT... WHAT ABOUT
YOUR... ER, FRIEND
THERE?

WHO... ME? I
JUST PRETEND I'M NOT HERE!

GOSH! I THINK THIS
IS GOING TO BE A REAL
INTERESTING NIGHT!



MORE INTERESTING THAN
YOU CAN IMAGINE, MY CHILD.

YOU JUST LAY RIGHT
THERE... I'VE EVER SO
MUCH MORE TO SHOW
YOU!

I'LL JUST GET!



YOU SEE, WITH JUST THE FLICK OF A SWITCH, ORDINARY SLEEPING QUARTERS ARE TRANSFORMED...

...INTO INSTANT HEAVEN!

UH OH! SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU GUYS ARE REALLY KINKY!

CLANG

CLANK



MR. WILCOX! WE... WE CAN'T DO THIS! NOT AGAIN! I-NOT TO HER!

OH-WEE, YOU MOUSE! THIS TIME NOTHING'S GOING TO STOP ME!



I KNOW WHAT WOMEN WANT! THEY WANNA FOR DOMINATION! THEY BEG FOR BRUTE, MANLY FORCE!

THEY CRY OUT FOR THE MANLY LOVE OF A REAL MAN... LIKE ME!

I KNOW HOW TO SHOW MY AFFECTION!



AND THIS TIME YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CRAMP MY STYLE!

P-PLEASE...

YOU HAVE TO FORGIVE MY BROTHER!

HE... HE'S NOT QUITE RIGHT! MADISON HAS DRIVEN HIM OVER THE BRINK OF RATIONALITY!

O-GOSH!



HE... HE JUST DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT WOMEN! HE... LIKES TO TORTURE THEM... TO TERRIBLE PERVERSIONS UPON THEIR SUECULENT FORMS!

WHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT LOVE AND KINDNESS AND GENTLENESS!



Y-KNOW... UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I REALLY THINK THERE'S A LOT TO BE SAID FOR GENTLENESS AND BRUTE FORCE...

BACK AT CENTURY STUDIOS...THE BLACK SHROUD OF UNDISCOVERED LIFTS AND IMMORTALITY IS STARTLED TO FIND HERSELF SURROUNDED BY THE PROPS OF...THOUSAND FORGOTTEN HORROR FILMS!



WH...WHAT
HAP--?

YOU! YOU'RE THE
PROP MAN! HOW I RE-
MEMBER! YOU PROMISED
ME!



B-BUT WHY? WHAT'S THE
MEANING OF THIS?

YOU...! YOU
TRIED TO LEAVE
THE STUDIO!

YOU WERE GOING TO
WALK AWAY! JUST...JUST
LIKE THE OTHERS!



O-OTHERS? WHAT OTH--!

OH MY GOD! AMAS
RAY!

YES! AMAS RAY! AND
GLORIA GISH...CARA BOWN
ZEPHYRE TILBURY...MAISEL TURNER
AND WENDY WICKERS!



LIKE YOU, THEY ALL
TRIED TO WALK OFF THE LOT!
OH, YES, THEY PROMISED TO
RETURN! BUT STUDIO PROPERTY
ISN'T PERMITTED TO LEAVE
STUDIO GROUNDS!

IT'S KEPT IN THIS
WAREHOUSE...ALL OF IT
ENTRUSTED TO AMF!



AND YOU...! YOU
STAY! LIKE IT OR NOT...
YOU, TOO, ARE STUDIO
PROPERTY!

YOU, TOO, BELONG
TO AMF...UNTIL THE
STUDIO CALLS FOR YOU
AGAIN! HA! HA! HA! HA!



WHY, OF COURSE!
I'M YOUR PROPERTY!

I MUST DO
WHATEVER YOU
SAY!





HOURS LATER... A LONE
FIGURE WITH THE
STEALTH OF A CAT
SLIPS INTO THE DARK
APARTMENT SHE
CALLS HER OWN.



WHILE ANOTHER
CURVACEOUS FORM
TRIES WITH EQUAL
GRACE TO AVOID
DISTURBING THE
SLUMBER OF AN
OLD MAN!



EARLY LATE FOR
WORKING GIRLS TO BE
STAGGERING HOME.
ISNT IT?



PEN! I... WE... WE
DIDNT MEAN TO WAKE
YOU!



YOU DONT, I WAS
JUST SITTING HERE IN THE
DARK, TELLING MYSELF
SPOOKY STORIES... AND
WORRYING OVER YOUR
RESPECTIVE RATES!

OH, PEN... YOU OLD
DEAR!

I... WE...
WE WERE BOTH
SORRY!



WE WOULD HAVE
CALLED YOU... BUT OH...
WE WERE BOTH... ER...
TIED UP!

I UNDERSTAND!
I UNDERSTAND!



OUT HAVING A WONDERFUL
TIME... WHILE A SENILE OLD BOAT
WORRIES HIMSELF SICK OVER
NOTHING!

JUST LIKE THIS YOUNG
GENERATION! I SWEAR,
THEY'RE ALL GOING CRAZY!

THERE'S NOTHING
TO WORRY ABOUT,
PEN!



WE WERE BOTH JUST
ENJOYING YOUR AVERAGE
NIGHT OUT... IN HOLLYWOOD!

THE COMIC BOOKS

by Joe Brancatelli

STILL MORE KISS

IT'S been six months since I first expressed distaste for the rock group KISS, the Marvel comic magazine based on its stage act and Stan Lee's decision to publish the book.

The letters are still pouring in. After being overwhelmed by a barrage of relentlessly hostile notes from the KISS Army which attacked by musical tastes and credentials, my comic art tastes and credentials and just about anything else about me they didn't like, I'd gotten a fairly heartening expression of support from both comic-book and rock 'n' roll lovers.

Lately, though, the crazies have taken over. Here's some of what they've spewed out:

● A Washington State reader said he was "sorry to hear of all the letters from the KISS Army. All in all, I think KISS is one of the worst creations in the 'entertainment' business (aside from the Sex Pistols and other trash as such) and has no right to be glorified in 'superhero' books. I was totally surprised to find that members of the KISS Army would read Warren magazines. I imagine, probably, they have 'spies' to check out the media."

● "I was amused by your referring to KISS as 'hood-spilling, pseudo-Nazi crazies.' I wrote one reader 'I'm sure you think all rock music is a consummation plot to under-

mine the moral values of American youth . . . MA! Oh and I have, from reliable sources, discovered that there are people in this world who enjoy eating RAW hamburger!! Talk about barbaric, boy!"

● "Actually," wrote an Indiana reader, "I hadn't any idea KISS was so big, having given up on rock 'n' roll years ago because of its crappy quality. Now I don't want to be prudish, and I sure don't approve of censorship (sic), but maybe a line needs to be drawn. Draw it at KISS. I dread the day the KISS Army gets into responsible positions. Of course, KISS is just evidence of greater problems."

My, my, folks, aren't we paranoid these days.

YA GET WHAT YA PAY FOR

What luck! I now have two, count 'em two, copies of Warren's 1984 Magazine. Like the good comic-book columnist I am, I sprung for the \$1.50 to buy a copy off the newsstand. Two days later, Jim Warren sent me an unsolicited copy free of charge.

Basically, 1984's concept has been done better and cheaper. The stories and art have been done before, with more taste, fewer exploitation plots and more interesting characters. The execution was unimaginative.

All in all, if you have to choose between paying a buck-fifty for 1984

or having Jim Warren send you one gratis, go for the freebie.

BUY THESE BOOKS

A couple of columns back I recommended two fanzines. I figured that would be the end of fanzine recommendations for a while, being as fanzine publishers of late seem to have been afflicted with the same lack of taste as comic-book publishers.

Thankfully, two more fascinating books have been published recently that merit special attention.

The first of them, *Fanzworld* #17, brings the good news that this esteemed journal is now attempting to "make it" as a regularly published magazine. We all thought the editor, Mike Barrier, gave up on the project a few years ago.

Fanzworld is, simply, the best magazine ever published about the comic arts. Its emphasis is primarily on animated films, but Barrier's interests have led him to produce incredibly good material about comic art in general and Carl Barks and Robert Crumb in particular.

Barrier himself is, simply, the most skilled writer, most ingenious editor and most insightful comic-art critic in the field. The best Nobody can teach him. He's intelligent. He's lucid. His work is serious but remarkably free of the pom-

posity that mars the work of most other comic-art critics.

In other words, buy issue 17; it contains a fascinating article on the Disney Studio in World War Two. Upon finishing the current issue, subscribe.

Fanzworld is \$2.50 from Fanzworld, P.O. Box 1633, New York, New York 10001.

The *Comics Journal*, which we recommended the last time, now has another interesting issue available. The *Journal*, despite perceptions to professionalization, remains an over-produced fan sheet rife with youthful exuberance and an often irritating hokey-than-thou attitude. It is improving rapidly, however, and is consistently readable.

The latest number, 39, has a fascinating interview with Paul Levitz, the 21-year-old fan-named-comic-book-pro and DC editorial coordinator. The Levitz interview, which is miles too long and tedious for all but those hell-bent on being a comics writer, touches on everything in the comic macrocosm. It shows, through Levitz's pitiful inability to see beyond the cluttered, intricate world of comic books, much of what is wrong with the comic-book business and why it is wrong.

The *Comics Journal* is \$1.00 from Panagraphics, Inc., 9306 Cherry Hill Road, College Park, Md. 20740.

AARRRRG!!

1984



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I HESITANT TELL YOU MY LORDS OF
THE MORROWNS WHICH WREST THE
STREETS OF OUR ONCE-FAIR LONDON

YOU HAVE SEEN FOR YOURSELVES
THE WRITHING MOUNDS OF HUMAN
BEINGS... SOME DEAD, SOME NOT
YET CLIMBED BY PEATH'S BLOODY
HAND, ALL BLOATED AND POCKED
WITH THE DREAD BLACK DEATH...
AWAITING THE TORCH WHICH WILL
END THEIR EARTHLY WRETH

LIKE ME, YOU HAVE SHELLED THE STREETS
OF THE HUMAN WASTE PITS, HAPPEN
UNDER THE LIVING, CREEPING HORROR
OF THE DISEASE-CARRYING RATS!

YOU HAVE SEEN THE URBAN IN HOMES
GNAWING ON THE BLOATED FORMS
OF THOSE NOT DEAD! THOSE TOO
WEAK FROM THE KILLING DISEASE
TO DO NAUGHT BUT WATCH AS THEY
ARE BODY CONSUMED!

YOU HAVE SEEN
THE WAVES OF
HUNGER-ORAZED
RODENTS WASH
THROUGH OUR
CITY STREETS,
PILGRIM ALL
IN THEIR PATH
AS THEY CARRY
THE VISAGE OF
DEATH ON THEIR
BACKS... IN THE
FORM OF THE
DEADLY BLACK
SICKNESS!

AND LIKE ME, I AM SURE YOU HAVE
WONDERED MY LORDS FROM WHERE
THESE PLUGS-CARRYING PESTS HAVE
APPEARED!

YOU HAVE WONDERED WHY THEY STRIKE
BOTH MAN AND BEAST, BRODING E-CH
WITH THE SUTHERING SICKENING NORGES
OF DEATH! AND YOU'VE PUZZLED OVER
WHY THERE ARE THOSE IMMUNE TO
THEIR DREAD DISEASE... THOSE WHO
WALK IN SAFETY AT DEATH'S SIDE!

NONE KNOW THE ANSWERS TO THESE
RIDDLES, MY LORDS! NONE SAVE I, A
SIMPLE WOODSMAN! FOR I HAVE SEEN
THE WAYSIDE FROM WHENCE THIS CURSE
SPRINGS! I KNOW WHAT CAUSE SMOTHERS
OUR CITY WITH DEATH!

I ALONE KNOW WE HAVE BEEN BROUGHT
TO THE BRINK OF HELL BY A WITCH...
ONE WHO HAS GIVEN US OVER TO SATAN
IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS INDISSOLUBLE FAVORS!

ONCE... ONCE NOT MORE
THAN A FORTNIGHT AGO...
(SHE WAS A CRONE, STOOPED
AND BEFEBBLED WITH AGE!)
BUT THEN... THEN SHE MADE
HER SCURRY PACT WITH THE
DARK ONE...

AND BEAUTY
WAS HERE IN
EXCHANGE
FOR OUR
SOULS!

"IN MY HUMBLE COTTAGE NOT FAR FROM HERE, I WOULD HEAR HER NIGHTLY CHANTING HER HIDEOUS SPELLS... BESIEGING THE WINDOWS OF HELL TO HEAR HER SELFISH PRAYERS!"

"SHE WANTED NAUGHT BUT TO BE YOUNG AGAIN...! YOUTH AND BEAUTY WERE TO ENJOY!"



"THEN ONE NIGHT, SHORTLY BEFORE THE COMING OF THE RATS, I WAS DRAWN IN THE DARKNESS TO THE CRONE'S COTTAGE BY A TERRIBLE, UNUSUAL STENCH..."

"AND THERE, GAZING THROUGH A WINDOW, I CHANCED TO SEE A MASS, FROM HELL ITSELF!"

"THE CRONE WAS KNEELING BEFORE THE MAN-BEAST PERFORMING VILE HORRIFIC ACTS...! AND WHEN SHE WAS DONE, THE OBRUS DEMON TRANSFORMED HER TO A COMELY MAIDEN!"

TRIAL of the SORCERESS



"GASP! CAN SUCH DESPICABLE SORCERY BE? THIS... THIS WERE CHILD RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR PLAGUE!"

"I PRAY UNTO YOU MY LORDS, BELIEVE THE WORDS OF THE WOODSMAN: HIS STORY HAS THE RINS OF TRUTH!"

"FOR I, TOO, KNOW THE GIRL TO BE A SORCERESS! IT HAS NOT BEEN LONG SINCE SHE PLACED HER LEWD CURSE UPON ME..."

"YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO PRAY FOR MY FAVORS? HE TOLD THE GIRL! 'OUR WORLD WILL COMPENSATE ME FOR YOUR VILE CONTENTIBLE LUSTS!'"

"IT... IT MUST BE SO! NO WISE WOODSMAN COULD CONCOCT SUCH A TALE!"

"MY SOUL YET SHIVERS FROM THE MEMORY!"

IT WAS JUST AFTER THE RATS HAD GONE, AND I FLED THE CITY TO BE SPARED THE PLAGUE! I WAS UNSUSPECTING AS I CAME UPON THE WITCH'S DEN! I KNEW NOT THEN THAT A SORCESSS LIVED WITHIN! I SOUGHT HOSPITALITY FOR A BONE-WEARY TRAVELLER!

YOU! IS ANYONE HERE?

"I MUST HAVE DISTURBED THIS SORRY CREATURE AT HER DENOING ACTS... FOR SHE WAS APPREHENSIVE THEN... AND ILL AT EASE TO SEE ME!

YOU LIVE HERE ALONE, GIRL? SUCH A WASTE! YOU ARE FAR TOO LOVELY TO BE DEPRIVED OF A MAN!

P-PLEASE, SIR! I VALUE MY SOLITUDE!

I KNEW AT ONCE THAT THE INQUILTOUS WENCH WAS UP TO NO GOOD! SHE SOUGHT TO STEAL MY SOUL BY TEMPTING ME WITH HER FLESH!

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU'VE KNOWN THE LOVE OF A MAN, GIRL?

DO YOU NOT ACHIEVE FROM DESIRE... YEARN FOR THE ECSTASY ONLY A MAN CAN BRING?

P-PLEASE, SIR...

OH, A SORCESSS SHE! SEDUCTIVE AND BEGUILING! HER EYES HAD BUT TO FALL UPON ME, AND I FELT MYSELF SUCCUMBING TO HER HYPNOTIC WILES!

I CAN BRING YOU PLEASURE, GIRL! WONDEROUS, RIFFUL PLEASURES UNLIKE ANY YOU HAVE EVER KNOWN!

I... I THINK YOU SHOULD GO, MY LORD!

I WAS HER CAPTIVE...! THE GLAVE OF HER PEAKVERTED THOUGHTS...! WITH HER BACIS SHE TOYED WITH MY MIND...! AND I KNEW IT WAS HOPELESS TO RESIST!

YOU AREN'T REJECTING ME, ARE YOU? LOVE?

I AM A NOBLE MAN! YOU ARE BUT A PEASANT...! LIKE IT OR NOT... YOU ARE MINE TO COMMAND!

IT WILL SO HARD ON YOU IF YOU DO NOT DO AS I BID!

COME! DO NOT RESIST ME! WE WERE MEANT TO BE FRIENDS! VERY VERY INTIMATE FRIENDS!

P-PLEASE, SIR...! I... I SEE OF YOU! DON'T... DON'T DO THIS AMPUL THING!

IT WAS THEN WHILE I WAS HELPLESS AND VICTIM TO HER SPELLS, THAT SHE SUMMONED THE DARK ONE BEFORE ME!

THE NIGHT SKY CLOUDED OVER,
AND THE EARTH SHOOK BENEATH MY
FEET. FEAR CLUTCHED AT MY
THROAT... I AND I KNEW MY FATE WAS
IN THE HANDS OF THE SORCERESS
AND HER LORD!

IT WAS INSANE...
PERVERSE...
I TRIED VAINLY
TO CAST MY
EYES ASIDE, SO
THAT I MIGHT
NOT WITNESS
THE ACCURSED
ACT!

BUT I COULD
NOT MOVE! I
WAS ROOTED
WHERE I
STOOD A
SILENT
UNWILLING
SPECTATOR TO
THE DEBASED
DESIRES OF
HELL!

SATAN HIMSELF
APPEARED... IN
THE GISE OF A
CAPT... AND
THE GIRL
GREETED HIM
BY SHEPPING
HER PEASANT
ROBES!

THE DEVIL THING TOOK
HER THEN AND SHE
LAUGHED... TAUNTED AND
MOCKED ME... EVEN AS
SHE WRITHED IN ORNUL
ECSTASY!

"THIS... THIS BODY OF
PLEASURE CAN BE YOURS."
SHE JEERED! "YOU NEED
ONLY TO GIVE YOUR SOUL
TO MY MASTER!"

AS HE REACHED
FOR HER, HE TOOK
ON THE SHAPE OF
A BEAST!

BUT I WOULDN'T!
I COULDN'T! MY SOUL
IS MY OWN! I REFUSED
TO SUBMIT TO
TEMPTATION!

WHEN BOTH SATAN
AND THE GIRL SAW MY
RESOLVE, THEY SPAT
FORTH ANGRY CURSES!

YET I DEFIED
THEIR BOTH! I KNEW
THEY COULDN'T
ABUSE ME! FOR THE
RIGHTFULNESS
OF GOD WAS IN MY
SOUL!

AND SILENTLY UNWILLING, SHE WENT TO
HIM... HER FEATURES TWISTED WITH
MORTAL DESIRE!

AND THE DEMON RETURNED
ANGRILY TO HIS PEWING
DOMAIN... I WHILE I BROUGHT
THE WITCH HERE TO TRIAL!



YOUR TALE IS AS FANCIFUL
AS THE WOODSMAN'S LORD
SNOWDON! DO YOU TRULY
EXPECT LEARNED MEN TO
BELIEVE THESE FABLES
OF WITCHCRAFT, LUSTS
AND DEVILRY?

BELIEVE WHAT YOU WILL,
SIR HILLARY! I RELATE TO YOU
ONLY WHAT MY OWN EYES
HAVE SEEN!

IGNORE MY
TALE AS THE
RAVINGS OF
A CULLION IF
YOU WILL...

BUT KNOW THAT IF YOU DO SO
THE ACCURSED PLAGUE BROUGHT
UPON US BY THIS SORCERESS WILL
RUN RAMPANT UNTIL THE DAY WE
ARE ALL BLOATED IN OUR GRAVES!



PLEASE, SIRS,
I BEG YOU HEAR
MY DEFENSE!



SILENCE, FOUL
PLAYTHING OF
SATAN!

THE ELDERS HAVE
NOT GRANTED YOU
LEAVE TO SPEAK!

NOR HAVE WE CONCERNED
HIM AS YET HEADSWAN PLAGUE
OR NOT WE CANNOT CONDUCT
OUR TRIBUNAL AS BARBARIANS!



I, FOR ONE, BELIEVE LORD
SNOWDON'S TALE! OUR FINEST
MINDS ARE AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN
WHY WE HAVE BEEN PESTERED BY
PESTILENCE-CARRYING VERMIN!

YES! IT CAN ONLY BE
WITCHCRAFT! AND IF THE
SORCERESS IS TO BLAME...
THEN SHE MUST BE MADE TO
PAY FOR HER WICKED DEEDS!



WITH THE POWER INVESTED
IN US, WE MUST PUT THE MITCH
TO DEATH...! ONCE AND FOR ALL,
WE MUST END SATAN'S RULE
OVER OUR BELOVED ENGLAND!

NO MORE OF OUR CITIZENS
MUST BE LOST TO THE PLAGUE!
WITH THE SORCERESS' DEATH
IT WILL END!

NO! DEATH
IS TOO HARSH
A PENALTY TO
IMPOSE FOR
THE FLimsY
EVIDENCE
PRESENTED
HERE!



WE ARE NOT
BUTCHERS. WE
ARE MERCIFUL
CHILDREN OF
GOD!

DO NOT KILL
HER...BUT GIVE
HER THE RACK.
I SAY!

THEN BURN
THE EVIL FROM
HER SOUL...

DESTROY THE
BEAUTY FOR WHICH
SHE HAS BARTERED
OUR SOULS...

AND BREAK HER
PACT WITH THE
DEVIL!

WHY!
YOU, YOU
CAN'T!

AH, BUT
WE CAN. WE
PRETTY!
WE CAN!
WITH THE
GREATEST OF
PLEASURES!



EVEN SATAN HIMSELF WILL HAVE NO DESIRE FOR ONE WHO IS SCARRED AND MARKED!

P-PLEASE!



BURN! BURN THE EVIL FROM HER FLESH!



THEN SCAR HER PLEASURES WITH THE LASH!



HH-HOLD! S-STOP THIS BARBARIC FAUCE!

THE GIRL HAS SUFFERED ENOUGH FOR HER SIN!

WHAT IS THIS! THE ACCUSER IS TOO SQUEAMISH TO SEE THE JUSTICE HE HIMSELF DEMANDS??



IS IT TAYLOR OR IS OUR NOBLE LORD SNOODON HAVING AN ATTACK OF CONSCIENCE?

YOU DID NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESSES AGAINST THE CHILD DID YOU SNOODON?

SNOODON IS RIGHT! JUSTICE IS ONE THING...! SADISM MASQUERADING AS JUSTICE IS QUITE ANOTHER!

NNNO! I MERELY FEEL WE HAVE DONE ENOUGH!

LET THE GIRL GO! I SAY! WE WILL FIND ANOTHER, MORE HUMANE WAY TO RID OURSELVES OF THE PLAGUE!



I'M VERY SORRY THAT HAD TO HAPPEN MY LORD!

BUT NOW YOU KNOW THE CONSEQUENCES FOR DEFEATING A LORD!



PERHAPS NOW THAT YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSON WELL... YOU'LL BE MORE ANXIOUS TO FULFILL MY WISHES!

THEN I SHAN'T HAVE TO CONDUCT ANOTHER TALE OF SORCERYISTS AND DEALING WITH DARK FORCES!



AFTER ALL... THESE ARE HARD AND SUPERSTITIOUS TIMES MY LOVE!

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE IGNORANT PEOPLE ANXIOUS TO BELIEVE THAT THEIR VOICES ARE BROUGHT BY THE SUPERNATURAL!



HA! HA! THERE WILL EVEN BE THOSE LIKE THE SIMPLE WOODSMAN TO UNWITTINGLY SUBSTANTIATE ANY LIE I CONTRIVE!

AH... BUT UNLIKE YOU... THE WOODSMAN DID NOT LIE, MY LORD!

H-HUH? H-NO... IT... IT CANNOT BE!



YOU SEE... IT IS AS HE SAID! I AM A CRONE MADE COMELY BY SATAN'S HAND!

AND SINCE YOU HAVE GONE TO SUCH LENGTHS BECAUSE IT IS MY PLEASURES YOU DESIRE THEN FAR BE IT FROM ME LORD TO DEPRIVE YOU OF THEM!

COME... EMBRACE ME, MY LOVE! TOGETHER WE WILL PROBE THE DEPTHS OF YOUR DESIRES!

THEN HAND IN HAND... WE SHALL MEET MY MASTER IN HELL...

I'M CERTAIN HIS EYES NOW... AWAITING YOU!



MAYBE I'LL HAVE JUST ONE QUICK GLASS OF BEER BEFORE I HEAD BACK TO THE FARM. I DON'T LIKE TO LEAVE MY CHICKENS ALONE FOR TOO LONG.



MOMENTS LATER...
WHY I HAVE A SMALL GLASS OF BEER, PLEASE?

SURE THING, FELLA! COME RIGHT UP!

WELL, WHAT'YA KNOW! A GENUINE DYED-IN-THE-WOOL KAYSEER. THIS OUGHTA BE A SNAP.



HI THERE, HANDSOME! HOW ABOUT BUYIN' A POOR WORKIN' GIRL A DRINK?

HEH...? O-O-KAY, BU-GUYS! WHAT'LL YOU HAVE?



GRAB A SCOTCH ON THE ROCKS, JAWNY! FARMER BROWN HERE IS FOOTIN' THE TAB.

COME! RIGHT UP, JANE!

IS THAT RIGHT? YOU KNOW SOMETHING, LUCAS BABY? A GIRL GETS PRETTY LOVELY WAITIN' FOR A REAL MAN LIKE YOU TO COME ALONG!

SH-SHE D-DOES?

MY NAME IS LUCAS... LUCAS WALSH!

YOU BET YOUR BOOTIES, LUCAS HONEY! C'MON, WHAT'RE WE HANGIN' AROUND **HERE** FOR?

LET'S YOUN ME SO SOMEPLACE WHERE WE CAN REALLY ENJOY OURSELVES, WITHOUT HAVIN' ALL THESE YOKELS STANDIN' AROUND GAPIN' AT US, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!

WH-WHERE DOO Y-YOU W-WANT T-TO G-GO?

OH BROTHER! A REAL LIVE WIRE!

HOW ABOUT YOUR PLACE HONEY? WOULDN'T THAT BE PRIVATE ENOUGH? I BET YOUN ME COULD HAVE A REAL PARTY AT YOUR PLACE! C'MON, WHATTA YA SAY?

YO-YOU M-MEAN MY P-PARENT? WELL, OKAY, I G-GUESS WE COULD G-GO TH-THERE!



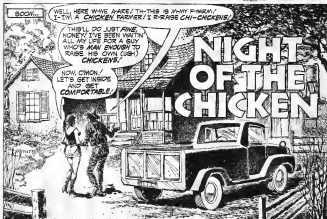
BOOO...

WELL, HERE WWAVE A-AKE! TH-TIS IS W-WHY P-PARENT! I-I'M A CHICKEN FARMER! I R-RAISE CHI-CHICKENS!

THIS'LL DO JUST FINE, HONEY! I'VE BEEN WAITIN' ALL MY LIFE FOR A GUY WHO'S MAN ENOUGH TO RAISE HIS OWN (UGH) CHICKENS!

NOW, C'MON! LET'S GET INSIDE AND GET COMFORTABLE!

NIGHT OF THE CHICKEN







YES, IT HAD BEEN A BUSY NIGHT FOR LUCAS,
AND THE NEXT DAY WAS BUSIER STILL...



AND SO IT WAS NOT
UNTIL NIGHTFALL
THAT LUCAS FINALLY
HAD A CHANCE TO
RELAX...











LUCAS WAITED FOR THE POLICE TO DRIVE OFF, AND THEN...

THEY MAY COME BACK LATER... START NOBING AROUND!

JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE....

I BETTER GET RID OF THE BODIES...TOMIGHT!

AND SO...

CLUCK!

I'M ABOUT TO DO MY DUTY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT! YES SIR!

GONNA RECYCLE THESE OLD DEAD BODIES AND FEED 'EM TO MY CHICKENS! (CHUCKLE)

IT WAS HARD WORK LOADING THOSE CORPSES INTO THE BACK OF THE FRIED CHICKEN CRUISER, BUT LUCAS FINALLY DID IT. AND SOON...

WITH FEED PRICES ON THE RISE THE WAY THEY BEEN LATELY, NOW ELSE IS THE POOR FARMER TO SURVIVE? (CHUCKLE)

YES LUCAS HAD MADE HIS SHABBY CHICKEN FEED, AND THE FOLLOWING DAY...

HERE, CHICK CHICK CHICK! HERE, CHICK CHICK CHICK!

THEY'RE JUST SCARF'N' THE STUFF RIGHT UP WITH A LITTLE LUCK, MAYBE I CAN EVEN PRODUCE ME A CHICKEN WITH A NICE, JUICY DRUMSTICK LIKE THAT! (HEE HEH) LAME NAO.

quack quack quack quack

WAS THE CHICKENS THROVE ON LUCAS'S NEW CHICKEN FEED, AND BEFORE LONG...

THEY CERTAINLY ARE NICE AND PLUMP TODAY, LUCAS! HOW EVER DO YOU GET THEM SO NICE AND FAT?

IT'S A NEW FEED I BEEN WORKIN WITH, MRS. EVERY YER GET A BRAND NEW FEED.



IT'S HARD WORK BEING A CHICKEN FARMER. LUCAS ALWAYS LOOKED FORWARD TO THE EVENING, WHEN HE COULD RELAX IN HIS CHAIR AND SMOKE HIS PIPE...



IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO JUST LEAN BACK AND...

WHA-? THAT NOISE! SOMETHIN'S FRIGHTENIN MY CHICKENS!



PRESENTLY...

IF IT'S THAT DAMNED FOX I FRIGHTENED OFF LAST WEEK I'LL...



HUNH-? WHAT THE HELL??



HEY! GET OFFA ME DAVIN YOU! I'M LOSING MY BAL--







WAKE UP, AVDA. IT'S GETTING LIGHT AND MY CAPTAIN WILL SOON BE ON OUR TRAIL. HE HAS NO SYMPATHY FOR DESERTERS.



BUT WHY DO YOU WANT THIS TREASURE SO BADLY, DESO? WHY RISK BOTH OUR LIVES?

I NEED IT DESPERATELY. I CAME HERE TO REMAKE MY FORTUNE AFTER MY LANDS WERE CONFISCATED BY THE GRAND INQUISITOR IN ESPANA.



I CANNOT ABANDON ALL THOUGHT OF RIDES NOR THE FOMHRY THEY WILL BRING ME.

WITH THIS WEALTH I CAN BUY BACK MY LANDS AND RESTORE THE HONOR OF MY FAMILY.

I AM TEMPLE PRIESTESS OF HACHU. IT WILL MEAN BE-LEAVING NOT ONLY MY PEOPLE BUT MY GODS AS WELL...

BUT I WILL HELP YOU STEAL THE TREASURE.



THEN HE WILL JOURNEY ACROSS THE SEA TO ESPANA AND THERE SO WEED AND...

?? WEED NOW? WHY--



YOU HAVE ASKED ME TO BETRAY MY PEOPLE. YOU HAVE TOLD ME THAT YOU LOVE ME AS I LOVE YOU. SO YOU NOT TRULY WISH TO MARRY ME?

MACHU PICCHU

THE TREASURE OF THE INCAS

NORTHWEST OF CUSCO, THE GREAT FORMER CITY OF THE INCAS WAS BUILT TO PROTECT THEIR CIVILIZATION FROM THE SAVAGES OF THE SURROUNDING PRIMITIVE TRIBES. IT WAS A STORE-HOUSE FOR THEIR WEALTH, A TRIBUTE TO THEIR GODS. IT WAS CONSTRUCTED TO LAST FOREVER.

BUT FORTUNE IS A LONG TIME AND THE CONQUESTORS WERE ADVANCING WITH THEIR HORSES AND THEIR THUNDER SPEARS AND A THIRST FOR GOLD WHICH SEEMED UNQUENCHABLE.



THIS IS MACHU PICCHU,
SACRED CITY.

WERE ALL YOUR WORDS
HONEYED LIES? DO YOU SEEK
TO TRICK ME INTO REVEALING THE
HIDDEN ENTRANCE TO THE TEMPLE
AND ITS TREASURE?

WHY DO YOU NOT GO
THATTO YOURSELF? THUNDER
STAFF WILL PROTECT YOU! YOU
SAY YOU ARE LIKE THE GODS AND
CANNOT BE HARMED... ARE YOU TOO
GOOD TO MARRY AN INCA
PRIESTESS LIKE MYSELF?

YOU WISH TO MARRY
A WOMAN OF ESPANA. A
WOMAN LIKE YOU, WITH
GOLDEN HAIR?



LISTEN TO ME, AYDA. I COULD WALK INTO YOUR TEMPLE AND TAKE THE TREASURE. I HAVE THE POWER TO KILL FROM A DISTANCE WITH MY THUNDER-STICK. AND NONE OF YOUR PEOPLE COULD STAND BEFORE ME.

BUT I AM AMERICAN, AND DO NOT WANT TO TAKE YOUR PEOPLE'S LIVES!



FORGET ABOUT THE GOLDEN-HAIRED WOMAN. OF COURSE I'LL MARRY YOU.

NOW LET'S GET MOVING. WE HAVE A LONG CLIMB AHEAD.

BEFORE WE GO ON I MUST HEAR AGAIN! DID DIEGO SPEAK TRUTHFULLY? DO YOU LOVE AYDA AS SHE LOVES YOU? WILL YOU BE MY HUSBAND? TELL ME, DIEGO, IS THERE ANOTHER?



DAMMIT! I'M GETTING TIRED OF YOUR QUESTIONS. THE ANSWER THEN, YES, THERE IS ANOTHER... A GOLDEN-HAIRED WOMAN, TERESA DELAHANDRO VARGA GORDO!

WE WERE BETROTHEN AS CHILDREN, BUT HER FAMILY WILL NOT LET HER MARRY A SPANISH. THIS TREASURE WILL GIVE ME THE POWER AND RICHES TO WIN HER BACK!



A TEMPLE GUARD STOOD LOST IN REVERIE BEFORE THE SECRET ENTRANCE TO THE TEMPLE. HE DID NOT HEAR THE CHATTERING VOICES.

AND ME, DIEGO? WHAT WERE YOUR PLANS FOR ME? I HAVE FORGIVEN MY PEOPLE FOR YOU!

BE STILL, AYDA!



FOR THE SAKE OF A BROKEN THING AS DIEGO CREEPT UP BEHIND HIM!

NO KILLING! YOU PROMISED, DIEGO!







BIGO WAITED. HE HEARD THE CHANTING AND THEN THE STRANGE MUFFLED VOICES. HIS FINGER TIGHTENED ON THE TRIGGER. AT LAST...

COME WITH ME, BIGO. THE GODS AGREE TO MARRY US.

THE GODS? WHO WAS IN THERE WITH YOU?

JUST HOLD IT RIGHT THERE. I'M NOT GOING ANOTHER STEP UNTIL I UNDERSTAND ALL THIS. WHO WERE YOU TALKING TO? THE SOUNDS OF THEIR VOICES CARRIED AWAY HERE.

I SPEAK TO GODS YOU HAVE ANSWERED THEM WITH YOUR SKEGGS. BUT THEY WILL FORGIVE IF YOU WILL BECOME HUSBAND OF ANNA.

YOU SCHEMING LITTLE WITCH! DID YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE I'D FALL FOR YOUR INFANTILE TRICKS?

TRICKS? NOT TRICKS. NOT LIE. YOU SEE, COME GODS WAIT.

IT'S NO USE! EXPLAINING ANYTHING TO HIM, CHILD. IN MANY WAYS, HE'S EVEN MORE PRIMITIVE THAN YOU ARE.

WHAT THE...?

THIS IS THE TREASURE YOU COINED BUT IT WILL DO YOU LITTLE GOOD!

GO, YOU'RE THE GODS! HA! YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN MEN IN STRANGE COSTUMES!



PORHAPS THE ANSWERS WILL BE FOUND ONE DAY WHEN MEN JOURNEY ON THEIR OWN INTO SPACE... AND MEET THEIR BROTHERS OUT THERE AMONG THE STARS!

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ASH STOOD TO THE EDGE ON THE ROCKY PEAK, OVERLOOKING DELUWY BAY. WHILE THE ATTENDANTS PREPARED THE SAVORY MEAL, IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL, EASY MORNING. THERE WAS SCARCELY A CLOUD IN THE DEEP BLUE AFTERNOON SKY. IT WAS SILENT AND THAT MEANT PLenty OF FOOD. ALSO, THE ROCK GOD HAD NOT GROWN IN SEVERAL DAYS. FORTUNE SMILED ON ASH'S SMALL TRIBE. YET IN HIS MIND, ASH WAS TROUBLED... FOR THE PEOPLE OF HIS TRIBE HAD CHOSEN ASH AS THE INTENDED ONE THIS YEAR...

ASH HAD KNOWN HER FOR MANY SUMMERS. HE HAD WALKED WITH HER ACROSS THE GOLDEN VALLEY AND WATCHED THE EBBING LIFT HER DARK HAIR. HE HAD SHARED A KILL WITH HER. HE HAD LAID DOWN WITH HER.

AUSTRALOPITHECUS

ASH HAD BEEN PROUD WHEN ASH HAD BEEN CHOSEN AS THE INTENDED ONE. IT WAS A GREAT HONOR AND HER NAME WOULD LIVE LONG AMONG HIS TRIBE AND YET HE WAS TROUBLED...



THE FEMALE ATTENDANTS STOOD BACK AND APPENDED ASH'S DECORATIONS. SHE WAS READY. ONE OF THEM SIGNALLED TO ASH AND HE APPROACHED THE CIRCLE APPREHENSIVELY. A KISS IN HIS THROAT AND A STRANGE SENSATION IN HIS STOMACH. HE WAS THE LARGEST MALE IN THE TRIBE... YET SOMEHOW HE FELT COMPELLED TO RUN...

ASH SMILED UP AT HIM ANXIOUSLY. ASH TRIED TO SMILE BACK, BUT IMPLICITLY HE FOUND HIMSELF AMONG THE ROCK GOD. "THE ROCK GODS WILL END ANYWAY," HE THOUGHT.

"THE RAIN WILL STOP AND THE EARTH WILL NO LONGER GIVE UP ITS BOUNTY."

"THE TRIBE WILL GO AWAY AS THEY DO EVERY SEASON. THIS CEREMONY IS USELESS!" BUT BECAUSE HE HAD ALWAYS DONE IT BEFORE, BECAUSE THE ENTIRE TRIBE WAS WATCHING, ASH PICKED UP THE FLAT STONE BESIDE HIM AND SENT IT CRASHING INTO HER SKULL!



... BUT SHE'S ONLY BEEN WORKING FOR THE FIRM FOR A MONTH, MR. FAIRCHILD? COULDN'T WE KEEP HER ON FOR JUST A BIT LONGER? I'M SURE SHE--

I'M SORRY MARVIN, BUT MISS CLAYPOLE SIMPLY ISN'T WORKING OUT. NOW, YOU BROUGHT HER TO BENJAMIN, BRADOCK AND BRENNER, IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO LET HER GO!

YESSIR, BUT--

I DON'T WANT ANY FURTHER ARGUMENT, MARVIN. NOW, EITHER YOU FIRE HER TODAY OR I DISMISS YOU BOTH TOMORROW!



HE COULDN'T GO AGAINST THE WILL OF THE TRIBE... YET
STANDING HERE ALONE NOW, SEEING HER RUINED FACE,
NGH FELT A TERRIBLE STABBING IN HIS HEART.

WHY DID SOMEONE HAVE
TO DIE TO APPEASE THE
ROCK GOD EVERY YEAR?
WHO HAD MADE THIS
RULE?

SURELY THE ROCK GOD HADN'T MADE THE RULE... AT LEAST NGH HAD
NEVER HEARD IT TALK, EXCEPT TO GROWL. AND EVEN AFTER SOME-
ONE WAS SACRIFICED TO IT, THE ROCK GOD ALWAYS ROARED AND
RAINED FIRE ON HIS PEOPLE ANYWAY. WHAT SENSE DID IT MAKE?



WOULDN'T IT BE SIMPLER TO JUST LEAVE THE VALLEY? OR WOULD
THE ROCK GOD FOLLOW? HE HAD NEVER SEEN IT MOVE BUT
THEN YOU COULD NEVER TELL ABOUT GODS.

IT WAS NEARLY NOON. THE FOREST PEOPLE WOULD BE
CREEPING INTO THE VALLEY SOON. SINCE NGH WAS THE
ELDEST OF HIS TRIBE IT WOULD BE HIS DUTY TO LEAD
THEM AGAINST THE FOREST PEOPLE.



NGH GAVE HIM A PIMAL
DESPAIRING LOOK AND
DESCENDED INTO THE
GORGE AFTER HIS
TRIBE.

IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN AN HONOR TO DEFEND THEM IN THE
PAST, BUT TODAY HE HAD NO STOMACH FOR IT.

HE STOOD TO THE MOUND OF CAREFULLY
PLACED STONES THAT MARKED HIS SLOP
AND UNCOVERED HIS WEAPON, A LONG,
STUBBY LENGTH OF TREE BRANCH, AND
SAT DOWN TO WAIT...

THE OTHER MALE MEMBERS OF THE
TRIBE GATHERED CAUTIOUSLY BEHIND
NGH THE FEMALES AND YOUNG HELP-
REMAINING SICK, GATHERING WASTED
GRAINS AND EDIBLE ROOTS.

FOR AS FAR BACK AS HIS BRAIN
COULD REMEMBER--AND THAT WAS
NOT FAR--HE HAD DEFENDED THE
VALLEY AGAINST THE LARGER,
MORE MUSCULAR FOREST PEOPLE.

HE HAD NEVER QUESTIONED THE
RITUAL. HE HAD SIMPLY DONE HIS
AGE-OLD DUTY. TODAY WOULD BE
DIFFERENT. TODAY FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN HIS LIFE--FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN THE HISTORY OF HIS PEOPLE
--HE WOULD ASK HIMSELF... WHY?



44



NGH STOOD UP CONFIDENTLY. THE FOREST PEOPLE WERE APPROACHING THE VALLEY. IT WAS TIME. YET SOMETHING WAS DIFFERENT TODAY... UNG, THE LEADER OF THE FOREST PEOPLE, WAS LAUGHING!

NGH FELT THE STRANGE STARRING WITHIN HIM AGAIN...



FIGHTING WAS LEFT TO THE LEADERS. ALWAYS NGH HAD MANAGED TO KEEP THE BIGGER FOREST CREATURE AT BAY.



NGH POSSESSED THE SPEAR. THEY HAD BEEN EQUALLY MATCHED... UNTIL NOW...

TODAY THERE WAS SOMETHING AHEAD THAN ANGER IN UNG'S EYES... THERE WAS FEAR. NGH HELD HIS SPEAR BEFORE HIM AND ADVANCED...



UNG RAGED BUT NGH COULD SEE THE FEAR IN HIS FACE AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF HIS RACE, UNG RETREATED BEFORE THE SPEAR. NGH'S PEOPLE LOOKED UP IN ASTONISHMENT. WHAT WAS HAPPENING?



CONFUSING AND GABBING BEFORE NGH'S RETREAT, UNG RETREATED ONTO A LOG. HIS PEOPLE BACKED AWAY, HURTLING ANGLETS AT THE ONCE FROUD FOREST LEADER.

AT THE EDGE OF THE BLUFF, UNG HESITATED. HE TESTERED UNCERTAINLY, GAZING FIRST AT NGH'S SPEAR POINT THEN INTO THE EYES OF HIS AWESTRUCKED TRIBE.



ALREADY THEY WERE PICKING UP STONES AND LAUNCHING THEM AT HIM IN RIDER AND DISBELIEFMENT. NGH FELT A GREAT SICKNESS IN HIS HEART.



NGH LOWERED HIS WEAPON AND GAVE THE SIGN OF PEACE.

BUT IT WAS TOO LATE. UNG GRIED BACK AT HIM FOR A MOMENT LONGER.



...THEN HE TURNED AND THREW HIMSELF OFF THE CLIFF...



NGH SAT BAKING EXHAUSTEDLY INTO THE FIRE AT THE MOUTH OF HIS CAVE. HALF A DOZENS OF FREDDAY KILLED ANTELOPE HAD BEEN LAIN BEFORE HIM BY HIS FORTNITE WIFE. YET HE HAD NO STOMACH FOR IT.



NGH KEPT SEEING THE LEADER OF THE FOREST PEOPLE FALLING AWAY FROM HIM DOWN THE SIDE OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN.



NGH KEPT SEEING THAT LAST WINTER'S LOOK IN THE FOREST LEADER'S EYES.

HIS WIFE NEUTRALLY PROFFERED AN ANTELOPE SHANK. NGH BAUGHED IT ASIDE AND PUSHED TOWNS FEET. OUTSIDE, A LIGHT RAIN WAS FALLING OVER THE BELT.



THE PEOPLE CALLED IT A GOOP GRAY BUT NGH KNEW THE RAIN WOULD NOT LAST.

SOON THE LIFE GIVING CLOUDS WOULD RAINEN, THE ROCK GOD WOULD BELCH BLACK SMOKE AND RED FIRE. THE RAIN WOULD AERON AND CRACK AND THERE WOULD BE NO FOOD FOR EITHER HIS TRIBE OR THE FOREST PEOPLE. UNK, THE FOREST LEADER HAD DIED FOR NOTHING. NGH WANTED TO KNOW WHY...



THE VALLEY WAS ENORMOUS. THERE WAS MORE FOOD DURING THE GROWING SEASON THAN BOTH TRIBES COULD POSSIBLY EAT.

WHY WOULD THEY ALWAYS ARGUMENT OVER IT? WHY COULD THEY NOT AWARE? WHY WAS IT NECESSARY TO SACRIFICE TO A ROCK GOD WHO NEVER LISTENED?



BENEATH AN OVERTHROWING OF ROCK, NGH FOUND ONE OF THE FOREST PEOPLE SEPARATED FROM ITS TRIBE. IT WAS A FEMALE, YOUNG AND LOST AND FRIGHTENED. NGH REACHED OUT AND TOUCHED THE WARM FUR ALONG HER THIGH.



WHEN THEIR MATHS HAD ENDED, SHE LAY SLEEPING IN HIS ARMS AND HE STARED UPWARD AT THE DRIPPING STONE CEILING AND LISTENED TO THE RAIN FELTING ACROSS THE VALLEY.





NGH WAS STANDING GUARD IN THE VALLEY WHEN HE HEARD THE SOUND. IT WAS A SOUND UNLIKE ANY HE HAD EVER HEARD IN THE VALLEY.



AT FIRST HE THOUGHT IT WAS THE ROCK GOD GRUMBLING, BUT WHEN HE LOOKED, THE ROCK GOD WAS SILENT.



HIS TRIBE RAN IN TERROR, BUT IT WAS NGH'S DUTY TO PROTECT HIS PEOPLE. AND HE STOOD HIS GROUND. THE SOUND CAME FROM THE TOP OF THAT HIGH RIDGE.

NEVER HAD NGH SEEN ANYTHING AS WONDERFUL AS THIS! RIGHT OUT OF THE AIR AN EGG-SHAPED THING WAS FORMING BEFORE HIS STARTLED EYES!

SURELY THIS WAS SOME SIGN OR OMEN FROM THE ROCK GOD! ONLY SOMETHING AS POWERFUL AS HE COULD SEND A MIRACLE LIKE THIS! PERHAPS IT WAS SOME SIGN OF RECOGNITION AT LAST FOR THE MANY SACRIFICES HIS TRIBE HAD MADE.



A THIN OPENING APPEARED AND TWO TALL, SMOOTH-SKINNED CREATURES HATCHED OUT. THEIR FUR WAS EGGSHELL AND BLOWING AND COMPOSED OF MANY BRIGHT COLORS! IT FLUTTERED BEAUTIFULLY IN THE LIGHT WIND. NGH HAD NEVER FELT SO EXCITED IN HIS LIFE!



PERHAPS NOW HE WOULD HAVE ANSWERS FOR HIS MANY QUESTIONS!

ONE OF THE CREATURES DISAPPEARED INSIDE THE EGG-THING. A MOMENT THEN REAPPEARED WITH A SPEAR. NGH HALTED, SUDDEN FEAR BITING HIS HEART.



IT WAS A STRANGE SPEAR THAT GLISTENED IN THE AFTERNOON SUN. PERHAPS IT WAS NOT A SPEAR AT ALL. PERHAPS IT WAS A GIFT?

NOW THE TALLEST CREATURE WAS PLACING THE SPEAR-THING TO ITS SHOULDER. STRANGER, YET... THAT WAS NO WAY TO THROW A SPEAR! THEN IT MUST BE A GIFT! THE CREATURE WAS OFFERING IT TO NGH! IT IS A... GIFTED FOR DEFEATING THE FOREST PEOPLE!



HE FELT A SUDDEN RUSH OF AWARENESS. HE WOULD ACCEPT THEIR BEAUTIFUL GIFT AND THEN LISTEN WHILE THEY ANSWERED HIS MANY QUESTIONS.

HE WOULD BE TROUBLED NO MORE WITH LOSS OF APPETITE AND SLEEPLESS NIGHTS.



HE WOULD KNOW WHY THE EARTH RAINED AND THE FIRES RAINED AND THE FOREST PEOPLE FOUGHT WITH THEM EVERY SEASON.





THERE WOULD BE NO MORE KILLING IN NGH'S VALLEY! KILLING BAINED NOTHING! IT DIDN'T RUSH THE ROCK GOD NOR KEEP THE RAIN CLOUDS IN THE SKY! IT CERTAINLY DID NOTHING TO STOP THE FOREST PEOPLE FROM INVADING THE VALLEY!



NGH WOULD MAKE NEW LAWS FOR THE VALLEY! PERHAPS THEN THE ROCK GOD WOULD STOP RAINING FIRE ON THEM! PERHAPS THEN THE GROUND WOULD NOT MARCH AND CRACK! PERHAPS THAT WAS THE ANSWER! PERHAPS THEY HAD BEEN DOING IT WRONG ALL ALONG!



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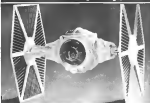
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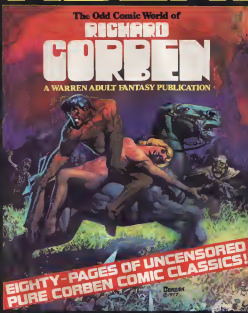
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